

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 24, 25 and 32 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Claims 1 and 2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) A remote control method for controlling a remotely controllable apparatus from an external device connected to the remotely controllable apparatus, wherein the apparatus has a control panel for specifying a processing operation and a reader for reading an image of a document, and which is operated in accordance with an indication from the control panel and/or an externally supplied command, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting that the document has been set to the reader before said reader starts a reading operation of the document;

in response to detecting the document, causing the external device to display a virtual control panel without any user's instruction after the detecting of the document, the virtual control panel for user interaction to cause the user to instruct the reader to perform a reading operation of the document, with the virtual control panel having an appearance identical with or similar to at least part of the control panel;

generating a command of the remotely controllable apparatus corresponding to an operation of the virtual control panel by the user; and

supplying the generated command to the remotely controllable apparatus for causing to start the reading operation of the detected document based on the instruction through the virtual control panel by the user.

4. (Previously Presented) A remote control system comprising:

a remotely controllable apparatus which has a control panel for specifying a processing operation and a reader for reading an image of a document, and which is operated in accordance with an indication from said control panel and/or an externally supplied command;

an information processing apparatus capable of supplying a command to said remotely controllable apparatus; and

a display unit and input device connected to said information processing apparatus;

wherein said information processing apparatus includes:

detecting means for detecting that the document has been set to said reader before said reader starts a reading operation of the document;

display means for displaying on said display unit, in response to detection by said detecting means, a virtual control panel without any user's instruction after the detecting of the document, the virtual control panel for user interaction to cause the user to instruct the reader to perform a reading operation of the document, with the virtual control panel having an appearance identical with or similar to at least part of the control panel;

discriminating means for establishing correspondence between a command, which operation of the control panel causes to be applied to said remotely controllable apparatus, and an operation performed on the virtual control panel by the user; and

communication means for supplying said remotely controllable apparatus for causing to start the reading operation of the detected document based on the instruction through the virtual control panel by the user with the command corresponding to the operation performed on said virtual control panel.

5. (Original) The system according to claim 4, wherein the operation is designation of a position.

6. (Original) The system according to claim 4, wherein said display means displays said virtual control panel based upon control-panel information obtained from said remotely controllable apparatus.

7. (Original) The system according to claim 4, wherein said display means displays said virtual control panel based upon control-panel information possessed by said information processing apparatus.

8. (Original) The system according to claim 7, wherein the control-panel information is read out of a recording medium on which it has been recorded in advance and is stored in non-volatile storage means utilizable by said information processing apparatus.

9. (Original) The system according to claim 4, wherein said remotely controllable apparatus is an image forming apparatus.

10. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 4, wherein said remotely controllable apparatus comprises:

document sensing means for sensing whether or not a document is present in said reader;

wherein when said reader senses that a document is present in said reader, said detecting means detects an output from said document sensing means and said display means displays, on said display unit, said virtual control panel having an appearance identical with or similar to at least part of said control panel.

11. (Original) The system according to claim 4, further comprising an image input device connected to said information processing apparatus for reading the image of a document and supplying said information processing apparatus with an image signal representing the image read, said image input device having document sensing means for sensing whether or not the document is present;

wherein when said document sensing means senses that the document is present, said display means displays, on said display unit, said virtual control panel having an appearance identical with or similar to at least part of the control panel.

12. (Original) The system according to claim 4, wherein configuration of said virtual control panel is capable of being altered.

13. (Previously Presented) A storage medium storing program code of a remote control method for controlling a remotely controllable apparatus from an external device connected to the remotely controllable apparatus, wherein the apparatus has a control panel for specifying a processing operation and a reader for reading an image of a document, and which is operated in accordance with an indication from the control panel and/or an externally supplied command, comprising:

program code for detecting that the document has been set to the reader before said reader starts a reading operation of the document;

program code for causing the external device, in response to detecting the document, to display a virtual control panel without any user's instruction after the detecting of the document, the virtual control panel for user interaction to cause the user to instruct the reader to perform a reading operation of the document, with the virtual control panel having an appearance identical with or similar to at least part of the control panel;

program code for generating a command of the remotely controllable apparatus corresponding to an operation on the virtual control panel by the user; and

program code for supplying the generated command to said remotely controllable apparatus for causing to start the reading operation of the detected document based on the instruction through the virtual control panel by the user.

Claim 14. (Cancelled).

15. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 4, wherein said display means displays, on said display unit, said virtual control panel corresponding to prescribed data that has been entered.

16. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 15, wherein said prescribed data is authorization data concerning each user who utilizes said remote control system.

17. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus in a data processing system which includes: a data processing apparatus which has a control panel for specifying a processing operation and a reader for reading an image of a document, and which is operated in accordance with an indication from the control panel and/or an externally supplied command; the information processing apparatus, which is capable of supplying a command to

the data processing apparatus; a display unit and input device connected to the information processing apparatus; and an image input device connected to the information processing apparatus for reading the image of a document and supplying the information processing apparatus with an image signal representing the image read; the information processing apparatus comprising:

detecting means for detecting that a document has been set to the reader before said reader starts a reading operation of the document;

display means for displaying on the display unit, in response to detection by said detecting means, a virtual control panel without any user's instruction after the detecting of the document, the virtual control panel for user interaction to cause the user to instruct the reader to perform a reading operation of the document, with the virtual control panel having an appearance identical with or similar to at least part of the control panel;

discriminating means for establishing correspondence between a command, which operation of the control panel causes to be applied to the data processing apparatus, and an operation performed on the virtual control panel by the user; and

communication means for supplying the data processing apparatus for causing to start the reading operation of the detected document based on the instruction through the virtual control panel by the user with the command corresponding to the operation performed on the virtual control panel.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said display means displays, on the display unit, the virtual control panel corresponding to prescribed data that has been entered.

19. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said prescribed data is authorization data concerning each user who utilizes said data processing system.

20. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling an information processing apparatus in a data processing system which includes: a data processing apparatus which has a control panel for specifying a processing operation and a reader for reading an image of a document, and which is operated in accordance with an indication from the control panel and/or an externally supplied command; the information processing apparatus, which is capable of supplying a command to the data processing apparatus; a display unit and input device connected to the information processing apparatus; and an image input device connected to the information processing apparatus for reading the image of a document and supplying the information processing apparatus with an image signal representing the image read; said method comprising the steps of:

detecting that a document has been set to said reader before said reader starts a reading operation of the document;



in response to detecting the document, displaying, on the display unit, a virtual control panel without any user's instruction after the detecting of the document, the virtual control panel for user interaction to cause the user to instruct the reader to perform a reading operation of the document, with the virtual control panel having an appearance identical with or similar to at least part of the control panel;

a discriminating step of establishing correspondence between a command, which operation of the control panel causes to be applied to the data processing apparatus, and an operation performed on the virtual control panel by the user; and

a communication step of supplying said data processing apparatus for causing to start the reading operation of the detected document based on the instruction through the virtual control panel by the user with the command corresponding to the operation performed on said virtual control panel.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein said display step displays, on said display unit, said virtual control panel corresponding to prescribed data that has been entered.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 21, wherein said prescribed data is authorization data concerning each user who utilizes said data processing system.

23. (Previously Presented) A storage medium storing program code of a method of controlling an information processing apparatus in a data processing system which includes: a data processing apparatus which has a control panel for specifying a processing operation and a reader for reading an image of a document, and which is operated in accordance with an indication from the control panel and/or an externally supplied command; the information processing apparatus, which is capable of supplying a command to the data processing apparatus; a display unit and input device connected to the information processing apparatus; and an image input device connected to the information processing apparatus for reading the image of a document and supplying the information processing apparatus with an image signal representing the image read; comprising:

program code for detecting that the document has been set to said reader before said reader starts a reading operation of the document;

program code for displaying on the display unit, in response to the detection of the document, a virtual control panel without any user's instruction after the detecting of the document, the virtual control panel for user interaction to cause the user to instruct the reader to perform a reading operation of the document, with the virtual control panel having an appearance identical with or similar to at least part of the control panel;

program code for establishing correspondence between a command, which operation of the control panel causes to be applied to said data processing apparatus, and an operation performed on the virtual control panel by the user; and

program code for supplying said data processing apparatus for causing to start the reading operation of the detected document based on the instruction through the virtual control panel by the user with the command corresponding to the operation performed on said virtual control panel.

Claims 24 and 25. (Cancelled).

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

inputting a user ID; and

providing an edited virtual control panel for each multiple user.

27. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 4, further comprising:

means for accepting a user ID; and

means for editing the virtual control panel for each multiple user.

28. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 13, further comprising:

program code for inputting a user ID; and

program code for providing an edited virtual control panel for each multiple user.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:

means for accepting a user ID; and

means for editing the virtual control panel for each multiple user.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20, further comprising the steps of:

inputting a user ID; and

providing an edited virtual control panel for each multiple user.

31. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 23, further comprising:

program code for inputting a user ID; and

program code for providing an edited virtual control panel for each multiple user.

Claim 32. (Cancelled).